THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sir, Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) has provided assistance in the; form of fifteen High Frequency fixed/ mobile wireless sets and spare parts worth US dollar 73,485 during November. 1993.

(c) FAO mobileses International Donor Assistance to improve the Locust control capabilities of locust affeoted countries. Assistance by Australian International Development Assistance Bureau was pro vided to improve our communication net work.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise_

(f) Wireless sets are used for timely transmission of locust information for organising ground and aerial control opera, tions.

Series of earthquakes since September 30, 1993 quakes in Maharashtra

2108. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE, be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Latur-Osmanabad belt in MahtariShtra has continued to receive a series of earthquakes even after September 30, 1993 quake, though with mil der intensity;

(b) if so, what further damage to life and property has been caused by the frequent tremors since the cevastating quake of September 30, 1993;

(c) whether the frequent earth quakes have kept lacs of inhabitants of the area out in the open fields for months together; and

(d) what steps have been taken and are being taken with or without Central assistance to resettle the victims on a stable footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN T MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SF ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(,b) The After-quakes have not cau any *damage.*

(c) No, Sir. Govt, of Manarass have provided temporary shelters in ares affected by the earthquake.

(?) The measures taken for re-setti the earchquafo victims include following:—

(i) The victims were provided w food, drinking water, milk, ck utensils, medical aid, electric temporary shelters, etc.

(ii) The villages, destroyed exieniv are being relocated at safer placi

(iii) Seeds have been distributed the farmers for Rabi season.

(iv)' A comprehensive rehapilital programme has been planned w World Bank assistance in the at of housing and infrastructure, so and economic rehabilitation, other related sectors.

Processing of paddy production

2189. SHRI BHUPINDER SIN MANN: Will the Minister of AGR1C1 TURE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that fan; are allowed to process their own pad production to marketable rice with any licence/permit;

(b) if so, what are the conditions 1 •'own for licence/permit;

(c) if not, what are the reasons the for; and

(d) in what manner the present we ing but outdated rice-shelling machir is efficient as compared to World (dards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN 1 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURL (SI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Any person, including farmers can make an application in the prescribed form for grant of permit for establishment: of a rice mill by giving particulars regarding location, size and typs of the rice mill and such other particulars as may be prescribed.

(d) Working of modern rice-shelling machinery at present is as efficient as available in other parts of the world except for some special equipments needed for production of export quality rice.

Supply of verified seed of cotton in Andhra Pradesh

2110. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a mixed variety of *cotten* crop is prevalent *in* Gungur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradeh with out coinciding with any spocific variety;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor-

(c) what st:v~s are taken to supply cer-ed seeds in that area; and

(d) what is the share of certified seed in the total consumption in those dist ricts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) There is no practiee of growing mixed variety of cotton crop in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Slate Government arrange for supply of certified seeds in that area largely throwgn their State Seeds Corporation and Private Seeds Agencies.

(d) Share of certified seeds in these districts is about 30 per cent of total consumption of seed.

Adoption of orphaned children in Maha-rashtra

2111. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICUGULTU&E be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a UK-based Guru Missionary has offered to adout children orphaned by he Maha-ashtra earth-quake;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the sesons therefor; and

(c) what is Gavernments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRT ARVTND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. GURU Nanak Blind Missionsty Society, Londos, U.K. has offered to pro vide support to 25 children orphaned in the rec?nt earrhquak? in Maharashtra. Accrding to them the proposed support will include funding for education, boarding clothing, food and general expenses invatved with 'he upbringing of the childran.

(c) The matter is undar examination in consultation with Govermeat of ' Maharashtra.

Crention of National OB Grid

2112. MISS SAROJ KHAPAROE; Will the Minister of *AGRICLTURE* be pleased to state;

(a) whether the N.D.D.B, had planned for creattonr of a National Oil Grid ; and

(b) if so what is the present state of progress in relation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SPATE IN THE

ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINIS-. TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI & KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sr. NDDB has planned for Creation of a National Oil Grid.

The programme envisages linking the major oilseeds producing areas with the